



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

McConnell rebukes RNC, calls Jan. 6 'violent insurrection'

By MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is criticizing the Republican National Committee for censuring two House Republicans who are investigating the "violent insurrection" at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and says it's not the party's job to police the views of lawmakers.

While Donald Trump has played down the attack by his supporters that was the worst against the Capitol in two centuries, the RNC last week took a voice vote to approve censuring Reps. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois at the party's winter meeting. The Republicans sit on a Democrat-led House committee that is aggressively investigating the riot and has subpoenaed many in the former president's inner circle.

The RNC resolution accused the committee of leading a "persecution of ordinary citizens engaged in legitimate political discourse" — words that drew outrage from Democrats and firm pushback from several GOP senators. The rioters who broke into the Capitol through windows and doors brutally beat law enforcement officers and interrupted the certification of Joe Biden's election victory.



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., center, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022. Standing with McConnell is Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., left, and Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., right.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

Papillon
RESTAURANT

- * Outdoor Seating
- * Early Bird from 5 till 7
- * Live music

Chef's Garden
Papillon
RESTAURANT

*Chef's Tasting Menu
by Chef Martijn Liebrechts
Located in "The Secret Garden"*

NOORD MEDICAL CENTER, NOORD 63

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

FOR NON-LIFE THREATENING ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

WWW.URGENTCARE.AW

BOOK YOUR PCR & ANTIGEN TEST

WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM

Urgent
Care
Aruba

Ike's
bistro
MEDITERRANEAN & CARIBBEAN

SPECIAL VEGAN MENU

SURPRISE YOUR LOVED ONE

Arugula Jackfruit Salad | Spicy Buffalo Cauliflower Wings
Truffle Porcini Risotto & Grilled Tofu | and much more

Reservations required | +297 522 3444 or ikesbistro@manchebo.com
Located at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa • OpenTable

McConnell rebukes RNC, calls Jan. 6 'violent insurrection'



Ronna McDaniel, the GOP chairwoman, speaks during the Republican National Committee winter meeting Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

"It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election from one administration to the next," said McConnell, R-Ky. He said he still has confidence in RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel, but "the issue is whether or not the RNC should be sort of singling out members of our party who may have different views than the majority. That's not the job of the RNC."

McConnell and others would prefer to talk about issues in this election year such as inflation versus the discourse over the insurrection and Trump's lies about the 2020 vote.

The rioters were repeating Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud and a stolen win, even after election officials and courts across the country repeatedly dismissed those claims.

McConnell and his closest allies have said for months that they want to look forward to this November's

elections, when they have a chance of taking back the Senate, and not back to what happened in January 2021.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said the RNC has said it wants the party to be unified, "and that was not a unifying action." Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said he believes the GOP should be a "big tent." Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Mitt Romney of Utah contacted McDaniel to discuss the censure.

Romney, who is McDaniel's uncle, told reporters that it "could not have been a more inappropriate" message from the party.

"Anything that my party does that comes across as being stupid is not going to help us," he said.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said the rioters who "broke windows and breached the Capitol were not engaged in legitimate political discourse, and to say otherwise is absurd."

Collins said the GOP started out the year with an advantage on issues that could decide the elec-

tion, but "every moment that is spent relitigating a lost election or defending those who have been convicted of criminal behavior moves us further away from the goal of victory this fall." McDaniel denied that the "legitimate political discourse" wording in the censure resolution was referring to the violent attack on the Capitol. She said it had to do with other actions taken by the House committee investigating the riot. But the resolution drew no such distinction.

Cheney said Monday that she had been receiving a "tremendous amount of support" in the wake of the censure vote. "I think every American who watched the video of that attack and who watched that attack unfold knows that it was really shameful to suggest that that what happened that day might be legitimate political discourse," she said.

McConnell has maintained his criticism of Trump over the insurrection, though he voted to acquit Trump after the House impeached the then-president one

week after the attack. In a speech after the Senate vote, McConnell said "there is no question that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of that day," and that "a mob was assaulting the Capitol in his name. These criminals were carrying his banners, hanging his flags, and screaming their loyalty to him."

His use of the word "insurrection" — the act of rising up against established authority — is significant. Many in his party have insisted that it was not an insurrection, trying to portray it as a peaceful protest.

Still, the GOP leader doesn't often mention Jan. 6 and did not participate in remembrance ceremonies on the anniversary of the attack last month. Last summer, he rallied his conference to vote against a bipartisan commission that would have independently investigated the siege, emphasizing to GOP colleagues that they should focus on the future and issues that will help them win back the Senate.

Similarly, former Vice President Mike Pence has mostly avoided talking about the insurrection, even though he was in the building as it happened and some rioters were calling for his death. But on Friday, he addressed Trump's repeated criticism that he could have "overturned" the election in his ceremonial role overseeing the electoral count.

"President Trump is wrong," Pence said to a gathering of the conservative Federalist Society. "I had no right to overturn the election."

While few Republicans openly defended the RNC's move, several said it was the party's prerogative to take the vote.

"The RNC has any right to take any action and the position that I have is that you're ultimately held accountable to voters in your district," said New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, the No. 3 Republican in the House. "We're going to hear the feedback and the views of voters pretty quickly here this year."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said Cheney and Kinzinger's role on the House committee is "not helpful." Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., who along with Cruz led objections to the certification of Biden's victory on Jan. 6, 2021, said it is a distraction to have Republicans in Washington like McConnell "bashing other Republicans."

"If you come to the state of Missouri and talk to Republicans, people who are going to be voting in our primary, they probably agree with what the RNC did," Hawley said.

Trump issued a statement on Wednesday saying that that McConnell "does not speak for the Republican Party."

As Republicans fought among themselves, Democrats piled on. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Wednesday that the GOP "cannot hide" from what happened on Jan. 6.

"They seem to have reached rock bottom" with the censure resolution, she said. □

As even Dem states ease, Biden begins rethinking COVID rules

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With even Democratic states moving to roll back mask mandates, the White House said Wednesday it is beginning to prepare for a less-restrictive phase of the national COVID response in the face of growing impatience to ease up and turn toward post-pandemic normalcy. President Joe Biden entered office promising to lead the nation out of the emergency phase of the pandemic, but it is state and local leaders who are stepping into leadership roles while Biden faces increasing scrutiny for his caution amid declining cases and rising public frustration. The White House for the first time acknowledged movement in its planning on Wednesday, saying conversations have been underway privately for weeks.

White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said officials are consulting with state and local leaders and public health officials "on steps we should be taking to keep the country moving forward." His comments came as states have moved to ease their own restrictions.

Governors and local school officials have been pressing for clearer federal guidelines for easing or ending restrictions, but federal of-



White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients removes a face mask as he prepares to speak at a press briefing at the White House in Washington, April 13, 2021.

Associated Press

ficials have been slow to preview potential changes. That's led to a patchwork of local and state policies that differ widely from one place to the next.

"We are working on that guidance," said Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. "As we've been encouraged by the current trends, we are not there yet."

The White House offered no timetable for the review or an indication of what it will recommend. Some critics say that's not good enough.

"The tragic thing is that

these are governors that would probably have followed the White House's guidance," said Dr. Leana Wen, a former Baltimore health commissioner. "They wanted CDC input and asked for it, but without a clear timeline, at some point they had to decide that they couldn't wait any more. The fault is not theirs, but the CDC's and by extension, President Biden's, which, with each passing day, is making itself less and less relevant."

Biden's hesitance is driven in part by the sting of his fleeting "declaration of independence" from the

virus last summer, which proved premature in the face of the delta and then omicron strains. Now, though, cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19 have dropped markedly since they peaked earlier this year amid the spread of the highly-transmissible omicron variant, and the vast majority of Americans are protected against the virus by effective vaccines and boosters.

Asked whether Biden appears to be out of touch with the country, White House press secretary Jen Psaki defended his caution. "As a federal government

we have the responsibility to rely on data on science, on the medical experts," she said.

"That doesn't move at the speed of politics, it moves at the speed of data," she added. Asked whether Americans should follow less-restrictive state or local rules or the stricter federal guidance, she repeated the White House's daily counsel: "We would advise any American to follow the CDC guidelines."

The CDC continues to recommend indoor mask wearing in places of "substantial or high transmission" of the virus, which as of Wednesday was all of the U.S. but 14 rural counties.

State and local leaders, nevertheless, have announced plans to ease virus restrictions in the coming weeks as omicron cases fall, citing the protections offered by vaccines as well as the increased availability of at-home testing kits and therapeutics for those who do catch the virus. Many of the restrictions eased last year, only to be reinstated as omicron swept the country.

Earlier this week, New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware announced plans to lift statewide mask requirements in schools. On Wednesday, state officials said Massachusetts will follow suit starting Feb. 28. □

Feds say no taxpayer money for safer drug-smoking pipes

By R. ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Following outrage on the political right, the Biden administration said Wednesday that a grant program to help prevent additional harm to people who use illicit drugs will not pay for safer pipes to smoke crack or meth.

"No federal funding will be used directly or through subsequent reimbursement of grantees to put pipes in safe smoking kits," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and

White House drug policy adviser Rahul Gupta said in a statement.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said separately that was never the intention, complaining that impression was created by "inaccurate reporting."

Monday was the deadline for service organizations and state and local governments to apply for a share of \$30 million in federal money for "harm reduction" efforts intended to prevent disease, injury and other collateral trauma to people addicted to

illicit drugs. The original request for funding proposals from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration had listed "safe smoking kits/supplies" among the items that could be purchased with taxpayer money.

They were among a dozen categories that included overdose prevention drugs, medication lockboxes, test kits for infectious diseases, and syringe disposal containers. The grant solicitation did not specifically mention pipes, although they can be part of safe



A pouch containing crystalized methamphetamine and a homemade pipe are shown March 21, 2006, in Window Rock, Ariz.

Associated Press

smoking kits. That triggered online reports that the Biden administration was using federal

dollars to pay for "crack pipes." Some Republican senators castigated the administration on Twitter. □

Working conditions for Border Patrol getting more attention

By BEN FOX

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A strained Border Patrol is getting increased attention from the Biden administration after tense meetings between senior officials and the rank and file while the agency deals with one of the largest spikes in migration along the U.S.-Mexico border in decades. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who oversees the Border Patrol, laid out 19 ways to address working conditions after frosty receptions by agents, said Chris Magnus, the new commissioner of Customs and Border Protection. Mayorkas also pledged in a memo to push for more prosecutions of people accused of assaulting CBP personnel in the course of their duties, an issue raised at a recent meeting in Laredo, Texas, and elsewhere, Magnus said Tuesday. "That's something that agents in the field want to hear because assaults are on the uptick," Magnus told The Associated Press. "We are not just seeing folks who are fleeing to the U.S. to get away from conditions. We are seeing smugglers, members of cartels, and drug organizations that are actively engaged in doing harm."



U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Chris Magnus poses for a photograph during an interview in his office with The Associated Press, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

Efforts to deal with working conditions for agents come as President Joe Biden has been criticized across the political spectrum over immigration. He has sought to reverse many hardcore policies of his predecessor but has come under fire over the situation at the border that could cause trouble for Democrats in the midterm elections. CBP encountered migrants from all over the world about 1.7 million times along the U.S.-Mexico border last year. The total, among the highest in decades, is inflated by re-

peated apprehensions of people who were turned away, without being given a chance to seek asylum, under a public health order issued at the start of the pandemic. Immigration advocates have condemned the administration for not repealing the public health order, known as Title 42, while critics, including many Border Patrol agents, say a Biden policy of allowing children and families to stay in the country and pursue asylum has encouraged irregular migration. Magnus said the agents,

and the administration, are just trying to manage a complicated situation. "We're seeing folks that are encountering political conditions and violence, unsafe conditions to live and work, at unprecedented levels," the former police chief of Tucson, Arizona, said in an interview, the first since he was sworn in Friday. "We've seen, for example, in places, earthquakes or other environmental conditions. We're seeing unprecedented levels of poverty. All of these are things that are in many ways, you know,

pushing migrants again at high levels to this country." The administration has sought to address the cause of migration, including by increasing aid to Central America and restarting a visa program that was ended under President Donald Trump. It has also sought assistance from other countries, including Mexico, to do more to stop or take in migrants. As the overall numbers have increased, and the administration has decided to allow many families to stay and seek asylum in a process that can take years, some Border Patrol agents have grown disenchanted as they spend their shifts processing and transporting people, not out in the field. That frustration boiled over in Laredo as agents met late last month with Mayorkas and Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz, who acknowledged morale was at an "all-time low," according to a leaked video published by the Washington Examiner. One agent complained about "doing nothing" except releasing people into the United States, referring to the practice of allowing migrants to remain free while their cases wind through immigration court. □



Police line-up at the Oregon State Capitol building where demonstrators gathered during the day Saturday, Nov 7, 2020, in Salem, Ore.

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The state of Minnesota has agreed to pay \$825,000 and change several policies to settle a lawsuit brought by journalists who

said they were hurt or harassed while covering protests over the police killings of George Floyd and Daunte Wright. The American Civil Liberties

Journalists settle suit over mistreatment covering protests

Union of Minnesota and the state's Department of Public Safety announced the settlement Tuesday. It prohibits the Minnesota State Patrol from attacking journalists, arresting or threatening to arrest them, ordering them to disperse, seizing their equipment and more. It also calls for an independent review of all complaints alleging mistreatment of the media covering those protests, and issuing body-worn cameras to all troopers by June. Several journalists reported being struck by less-lethal munitions, herded and de-

tained while covering protests. After Wright, a 20-year-old Black man, was shot and killed by an officer in Brooklyn Center in April, the city's police station was surrounded for several nights by protesters. Tim Evans, a freelance photographer, described to The Associated Press how officers surrounded protesters after a 10 p.m. curfew passed, then charged into the crowd and began pepper-spraying and tackling people. Evans said he was punched in the face, his credentials were torn off and an officer

believed to be a Hennepin County sheriff's deputy forced him to his stomach and knelt on his back. Other journalists posted photos and videos online showing police detaining them while checking their credentials, and in at least one case spraying chemical irritants. The ACLU said other portions of the settlement require that the State Patrol be trained on treatment of the media and First Amendment rights. Litigation continues against other defendants, including the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. □

New Dutch exhibition examines Indonesia's independence

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Video of Dutch troops overseeing the torching of houses in an Indonesian village plays in one room of the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam. A few meters away, a baby's clothes sewn from book covers the only scraps of cloth the mother could find are laid out.

The displays, which cast into stark relief two different elements of suffering, are part of a new exhibition at the national museum of the Netherlands. "Revolusi! Indonesia Independent" presents a multifaceted view of the violent birth of the Southeast Asian nation from the ashes of World War II and three centuries of colonial rule.

The array of baby clothes "doesn't show the violence directly, but it's this indirect impact of the violence that's been shown by these objects," museum director Taco Dibbits told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Indonesia's War of Independence is shown through



An external view of the National Museum in Amsterdam with a poster advertising the show, "Revolusi! Indonesia Independent", Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

the eyes of 23 witnesses, ranging from a young Indonesian boy with a box of watercolors covertly painting troop movements in his hometown to famed photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson's iconic images of President Sukarno being sworn into office at the sultan's palace in Yogyakarta

on Dec. 17, 1949.

The exhibit includes paintings, propaganda, video and photographs of the tumultuous transformation of the Dutch East Indies into Indonesia.

The show is part of the Rijks Museum's examination of the Netherlands' colonial past that last year featured

a major exhibition on the country's role in the global slave trade.

"If you look at the Dutch educational system, the Indonesian independence is described from a Dutch perspective, and we feel it very important to continuously broaden our history," Dibbits said.

The exhibition, which will travel to Indonesia next year, was pulled together by four curators, two from the Netherlands and two from Indonesia.

One of the Indonesian curators, historian Bonnie Triyana, sparked controversy last month when he criticized the use of the word "bersiap" in the exhibition. "If we use the term 'bersiap' in general to refer to violence against the Dutch during the revolution, it takes on a strongly racist connotation," he wrote in Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad.

The word, meaning "be ready," is often used in the Netherlands to refer to violence by Indonesians in the early days of the independence struggle immediately after the end of World War II.

One group has filed a complaint with police and prosecutors over use of the term, saying the museum "knowingly continues to use a term that stigmatizes Indonesians in a colonial way." □

Italian police allegedly urged death for American suspects

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Several members of Italy's Carabinieri paramilitary police force called for the deaths or beatings of two American teenagers who were arrested in the hours after an officer's slaying, Italian media reported Wednesday.

A Carabinieri officer has been charged with using unjustified measures in handling a suspect for allegedly blindfolding one of the teens illegally as he awaited questioning at a police station. Phone messaging chats involving several Carabinieri hours after the July 2019 arrests of the young tourists were introduced as evidence at the officer's trial on Wednesday.

Gabriel Natale-Hjorth and Finnegan Lee Elder, respectively 18 and 19 at the time of the slaying in Rome, were convicted last year

of murder and given Italy's stiffest punishment life imprisonment. An appeals trial for the two is scheduled to start in Rome on Thursday. Carabinieri Vice Brigadier Mario Cerciello Rega, 35, was stabbed 11 times by Elder, and his police partner was slightly injured in a scuffle with both defendants on a street near their hotel where the Americans were staying while on summer holiday.

At their trial, the Americans testified they were acting in self-defense against a pair of men they believed were thugs. Cerciello Rega's partner testified that the two officers had identified themselves clearly as Carabinieri but that they were immediately attacked without cause. The officers were on a plainclothes mission to investigate an alleged extortion attempt by the Americans following a

botched attempt to buy cocaine. Shortly after the suspects were arrested at their hotel, Natale-Hjorth was blindfolded with a scarf as he sat in a chair for questioning at a police station. A photo of the blindfolding, which is illegal and a violation of police procedure in Italy, circulated in the Italian media.

On Wednesday, Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera quoted from transcripts presented at the officer's trial of phone messaging chats involving several Carabinieri after the arrests. Some messages demanded that the Americans receive the death penalty which Italy doesn't have or that they be put into a closed room and killed. Another message suggested that the two be "dissolved in acid."

Still another message wished that the young men



Finnegan Lee Elder, right, shows a crucifix to co-defendant Gabriel Natale-Hjorth before a jury began deliberating their fate in their trial for the slaying of an Italian plainclothes police officer on a street near the hotel where they were staying while on vacation in Rome in summer 2019, in Rome, on May 5, 2021. S Associated Press

would meet the same fate as an Italian man who was severely beaten in 2009 while in Carabinieri custody and later died. Two Carabinieri police officers were eventually convicted of involuntary homicide in that case and sentenced to 13

years in prison.

Carabinieri officials on Wednesday called the chat messages "offensive and abominable" and pledged to immediately discipline the officers involved, Italian news agency Lapresse said. □

U.N. court orders Uganda to pay Congo \$325M for violence

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The International Court of Justice on Wednesday ordered Uganda to pay \$325 million in compensation to Congo for violence in a long-running conflict between the African neighbors that began in the late 1990s.

The compensation order came more than 15 years after the U.N. court ruled in a complex, 119-page judgment that fighting by Ugandan troops in Congo breached international law.

"The court notes that the reparation awarded to the DRC for damage to persons and to property reflects the harm suffered by individuals and communities as a result of Uganda's breach of its international obligations," the court's president, U.S. judge Joan E. Donoghue, said.

The sum awarded was well below the request for more than \$11 billion in damages Congo had submitted to the court.

The court broke down the compensation into different categories of damage



Congo's President Laurent Kabila, left, is greeted by Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni upon his arrival at the airport in Entebbe, Uganda on Jan. 23, 1998.

Associated Press

es.

It assessed \$225 million for "loss of life and other damage to persons" that included rape, conscription of child soldiers and the displacement of up to 500,000 people.

It assessed another \$40 million for damage to property and \$60 million for damage

to natural resources, including the plundering of gold, diamonds, timber and other goods by Ugandan forces or rebels they supported. The court ordered Uganda to pay the compensation in annual amounts of \$65 million.

Henry Oryem Okello, Uganda's minister of state for in-

ternational affairs, was not immediately available for comment.

The case stemmed from years of bloody conflict in Congo's mineral-rich east. A dispute over land escalated and turned the Ituri region into the epicenter of a regional war in which Congo's neighbors backed

different militias in their battles for influence.

The hostilities also spread west, including to the city of Kisangani, where Donoghue said the fighting was between Ugandan and Rwandan forces.

Donoghue said the International Court of Justice's December 2005 judgment established that "Uganda had committed acts of killing among the civilian population, had failed to distinguish between civilian and military targets, had not protected the civilian population in fighting with other combatants, and as an occupying power, had failed to take measures to respect and ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in entry."

The 2005 judgment also found that Congolese armed forces violated a treaty on diplomatic relations by attacking the Ugandan Embassy in Kinshasa and abusing Ugandan diplomats at the embassy and at an international airport. Uganda withdrew a compensation claim against Congo linked to those findings. □

Australia, Lithuania to unite in countering China pressures

By **ROD McGUIRK**

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) —

The foreign ministers of Australia and Lithuania agreed Wednesday to step up cooperation on strategic challenges, in particular pressures from China.

Lithuania's Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis and his Australian counterpart Marise Payne met Wednesday at Parliament House.

Australian exporters have lost tens of billions of dollars to official and unofficial Chinese trade barriers

covering coal, wine, beef, crayfish and barley that have coincided with deteriorating relations with Beijing.

Lithuania, a country of 2.8 million in the Baltic region, more recently drew Beijing's ire after breaking with diplomatic custom by agreeing that Taiwan's office in its capital Vilnius would bear the name Taiwan instead of Chinese Taipei, a term used by other countries to avoid offending Beijing.

"For quite a while, Australia was probably one of the main examples where China is using economy and trade as a political instrument or, one might say, even as a political weapon," Landsbergis said.

"Now Lithuania joins this exclusive club . . . but it is apparent that we're defi-

nately not the last ones," he added.

Payne said she agreed with Landsbergis on the importance of like-minded countries working together with a consistent approach to maintaining the international rules-based order, free and open trade, transparency, security and stability.

"There are many colleagues with whom the foreign minister (Landsbergis) and I work and engage on these issues . . . the more I think we are sending the strongest possible message about our rejection of coercion and our rejection of authoritarianism," Payne said.

Landsbergis welcomed Australia to World Trade Organization consultations over a complaint by the European Union accusing

Beijing of holding up goods both from member nation Lithuania and from EU companies that use Lithuanian components at China's borders.

"We need to remind countries like China or any other country that would wish to use trade as a weapon that like-minded countries across the globe . . . have tools and regulations that help withstand the coercion and not to give in to . . . political and economic pressures," Landsbergis said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Tuesday that China was adhering to WTO rules in its dealings with Lithuania.

"The so-called 'coercion' of China against Lithuania is purely made out of thin air," he said Tuesday. □



Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne, right, and Lithuania's counterpart Gabrielius Landsbergis hold a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

Kerry calls for keeping power markets open in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — U.S. climate envoy John Kerry called Wednesday for more investment in clean energy and urged Mexico to keep its market “open and competitive” amid tensions over Mexico’s plan to favor its state-owned electricity company and limit private and foreign firms that have invested in renewable power.

“What we want to do is work with Mexico in a way that will strengthen ... the ability of the marketplace to be able to be open and competitive,” Kerry said during opening remarks on his visit to Mexico City.

U.S. firms have complained bitterly about constitutional changes proposed by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador in October. Those changes are still held up in the Mexican Congress, where they need a two-thirds majority that López Obrador hasn’t yet been able to pull together.

Those changes would guarantee a majority market share for state-owned power plants that often burn dirty fuel oil or coal, while limiting private wind, natural gas and solar plants to a minority market share. Many U.S. companies operating in Mexico either invested in cleaner power plants themselves or rely on cheaper energy produced by them.

Kerry offered U.S. financing and technology to boost



U.S. climate envoy John Kerry, left, bumps elbows with Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard during a photo opportunity on the sidelines of a meeting in Mexico City, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022.
Associated Press

renewable energy and said, “We respect completely the sovereignty of Mexico,” a nod to López Obrador’s push to favor energy self-sufficiency and state-owned companies. Mexico has denied López Obrador’s proposed reforms would violate Mexico’s emissions-reduction pledges or the U.S.-Mexico Canada free trade pact, which prohibits favoring domestic industries over foreign investors.

But the effects of López Obrador’s affection for fossil fuels is also an underlying issue. He often waxes

nostalgic about his youth in the oil-rich Gulf coast state of Tabasco and has boosted investment in oil refineries. Those refineries often produce dirty fuel oil as a byproduct, which has to be burned at government power plants because few other buyers want it anymore.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico expressed concerns about that on the eve of Kerry’s visit.

“The government of the United States has repeatedly expressed concern over Mexico’s current proposal for the energy sec-

tor,” the embassy said in a statement. “Promoting the use of dirtier, antiquated and expensive technologies over efficient renewable alternatives would put consumers and the economy in general at a disadvantage.”

López Obrador sought to downplay the friction Tuesday, saying “there are opportunities for investment. The only thing we want to do at the same time is strengthen the CFE,” Mexico’s state-owned Federal Electricity Commission.

The commission runs plants that burn coal, fuel oil and

natural gas, with some solar, nuclear and hydroelectric plants.

The Mexican president denied Mexico didn’t want clean energy and suggested the United States might offer funding for his plans to increase Mexico’s hydroelectric power capacity.

“The thing is to reach agreements with the U.S. government on investments ... getting low-interest loans, at interest rates like they charge in the United States, that would be an investment in favor of the environment,” López Obrador said.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm visited Mexico in January and wrote that “In each meeting, we expressly conveyed the Biden-Harris Administration’s real concerns with the potential negative impact of Mexico’s proposed energy reforms on U.S. private investment in Mexico,” adding, “The proposed reform could also hinder U.S.-Mexico joint efforts on clean energy and climate.”

The bill submitted in October would cancel contracts under which 34 private plants sell power into the national grid. The plan would also declare “illegal” an additional 239 private plants that sell energy directly to corporate clients in Mexico. Almost all of those plants are run with renewable energy sources or natural gas. □

Guatemala Mayan community argues before human rights court

By SONIA PÉREZ D.
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Lawyers for an Indigenous community in eastern Guatemala made arguments before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Wednesday in a case that could have far-reaching implications for Indigenous communities throughout the Americas.

The community of Agua Caliente, one of 16 Maya Q’eqchi’ communities in the El Estor municipality, is demanding that the Gua-

temalan government give them title to their land and the right to determine how its natural resources are exploited.

“This case brings to the court, for the first time, a chance to rule on whether governments should act to recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, as a principle of public international law,” said Leonardo Crippa, an attorney with the Indian Law Resource Center and one of those

representing the community, in a statement.

The plaintiffs expect that deliberations by the court seated in Costa Rica could take at least seven months. Mining operations and other exploitation of natural resources on Indigenous lands are frequently sources of conflict in the Americas and that problem is expected to grow as the pressure increases to produce valuable minerals needed for green energy initiatives, the center said.

The cloudy ownership sta-

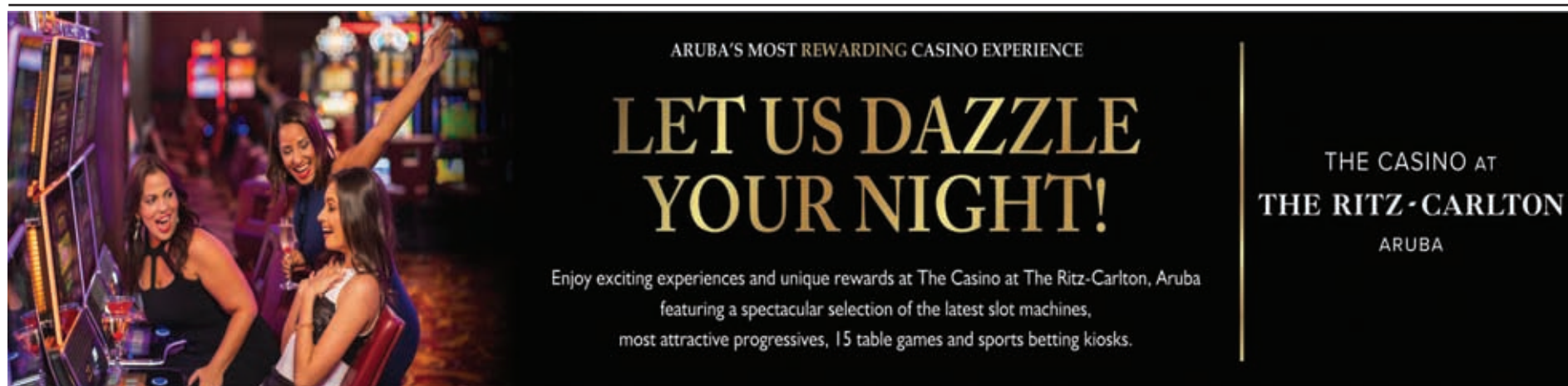


The nickel mine run by the Swiss-based Solway Investment Group stands next to Izabal Lake in El Estor in the northern coastal province of Izabal, Guatemala, Oct. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

tus of lands near Lake Izabal has been the source of

disputes in the area for decades. □



More than \$150,000 in prizes

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba launched its amazing campaign: Mega Win Luxury Vacations!

PALM BEACH — The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba just launched its amazing campaign: Mega Win Luxury Vacations! This campaign starts on February 1st till April 30th, 2022, where

they will raffle dream vacations to the newest hotels in the Caribbean: The Ritz-Carlton, Turks and Caicos and The St. Regis Bermuda Resort. They will also raffle dream vacations to

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba and more prizes amongst their visitors.

All members of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba can participate in this campaign starting February 1st till April 30th. There will be 3 drawing dates: February 26th, March 26th and April 30th. A total of 10 finalists will be selected on each drawing date and will qualify through the raffle tickets in the raffle box and through the MVP (Most Valuable Player) promotion. To participate is very easy: you need to be a



member of The Casino VIP Club. For every 80 points you accumulate on slot play and every \$40 dollars in Theoretical Win on table play you will receive one ticket. In addition you have the option to receive one free raffle ticket to participate by visiting one of our Restaurants at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba.

With every dinner purchase at Casa Nonna New York and BLT Steak, you will receive a voucher to participate. Simply present the restaurant voucher together with the dinner receipt at the Casino VIP Desk on the same night to redeem your raffle ticket.

The prizes for this promotion will be as follows:

- 3 x vacations for two persons to The Ritz-Carlton, Turks and Caicos
- 3 x vacations for two persons to The St. Regis Bermuda Resort
- 3 x vacations for two persons to The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- 21 x slot credit prizes for a total of \$52,500

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba keeps innovating by bringing exciting campaigns for their visitors who are always surprised and excited to participate. Additionally, The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba offers a thoughtfully-tiered player reward program called 'Elevate', featuring exclusive benefits and events for members. Members can earn points for both slot machines and table games and receive cash redemption from slot machine points, while accumulated table comps can be redeemed towards enjoying the hotel's celebrated amenities, including complimentary rooms nights, dining, and spa.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is known as the island's luxury casino where guests enjoy exceptional personalized service, a great selection of table games and state-of-the-art slot machines for a casino experience like no other.

For more information about the Mega Win Luxury Vacations Campaign, the Elevate Tier Program and other promotions, visit us at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba VIP Desk or call us at 527-2276/ 527-2277 and we will be delighted to assist you. □

NOW AVAILABLE!



BlueAruba Realty

Luxury Penthouse

at Eagle Beach

Two levels of spectacular ocean views
and all the great amenities Blue Residences
has to offer



Pinchos Grill & Bar

Open Everyday 5PM - 11PM

Spectacular setting - all tables over the water

Bar snacks & drinks available

Reservations recommended

583-2666
www.pinchosaruba.com
reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com

Live Music Fri - Sat & Sun

Follow Us  

Fit2fly COVID-19 Testing Center

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

NAAT (Abott ID): Result in 30 minutes!

PCR / Antigen Test SAME DAY RESULT!

LABORATORIO DI SERVIZIO

MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630
info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM)** **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

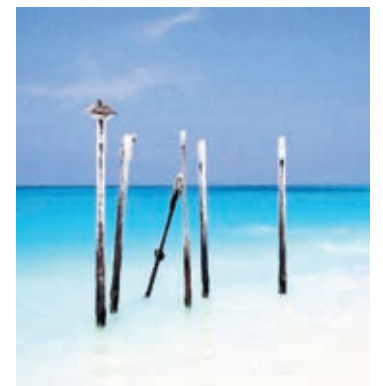
Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send

your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submit-

ting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes with-

out compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. ☐



MPG makes the New York Times' real estate section for the fourth time

ORANJESTAD — The international real estate section of the famed New York Times publications featured a house for sale in Aruba, on February 2nd, 2022. The article was titled House Hunting in Aruba: Three Bedrooms and a Pool for \$1.1 Million.

The article went on to quote a number of premier real estate agents on the island, among them Muna Habash, a broker and the owner of MPG Aruba Real Estate, who is regularly featured by the publication.

According to Habash, the pandemic helped stimulate the housing market in Aruba, an island territory of the Netherlands, in large part because it sits outside of the hurricane belt in the southern Caribbean Sea, and has a relatively arid climate.

Habash goes on to state that while Aruba doesn't publish official price statistics, the housing market had achieved some stability just before the pandemic's onset in March 2019, following several years of stagnation in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Whereas in mid-2019, the median price for a house in Aruba was about Awg 580,000 or about \$321,000, according to CBS, the Central Bank of Aruba, the demand increased and prices went up, in the two subsequent years.

Habash revealed that the market was holding steady at the onset of the pandemic but as Covid19 unfolded it started to rise, and properties were sold very quickly and mostly at the asking price. Pandemic buyers flocked to the island, and Aruba has seen its home market bounce back.

Habash informs that the majority of foreign buyers in Aruba come from North America, and Canada, also a great number of European buyers, including Dutch. Most foreigners buy homes in the Noord area.

There are no restrictions on foreign buyers in Aruba and many properties have "long leases," which carry a reasonable price tag per year for new construction and last for around 60 years. Nonrenewal of a land lease is extremely rare. Properties, when not used, may be rented out by many reputable management companies that will help owners with long-term or short-term rentals as well as the upkeep of their property. This additional income can pay for the property's upkeep while allowing owners to use it at their leisure.

Most buyers use a civil law notary appointed by the government to negotiate the purchase of a home, notaries on the island guide both parties to the closing with the same impartial position. Habash concludes that a three-bedroom, two-bath house close to ho-



Muna Habash
MPG Real Estate Aruba
+297-5934647
muna@mpgaruba.com
www.mpgaruba.com



tels and a beach area can now sell for \$500,000 to \$750,000. Among Caribbean nations, the island has comparatively few properties on the beach, so they command a premium. The last one, in the Arashi Beach area, sold for \$6.5 million and will require a total renovation.

With almost two decade of experience with real estate sales and financing on the island, MPG delivers expertise and the best professional advice to secure a successful transaction. MPG's motivated and friendly staff guides buyers every step of the way during the purchase process.

To read the article go to:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/02/realestate/aruba-house-hunting.html>

“Wings of Hope” will continue contributing in 2022



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V.'s (AAA) “Wings of Hope” (WoH) is proud to continue contributing to the Aruban Community in 2022.

Sustainability is one of AAA's strategic pillars being a guiding principle for

the company. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are anchored in the purpose, vision, values, and strategies of the organization. WoH's 2022 goals are based on five of the SDGs: No Hunger, Education, Awareness, Environment/

Sustainable Airport Community, and Partnership.

This year, a total of 50 families will receive assistance through food vouchers once a month from January until December 2022, which will be distributed by the Directorate of Social Affairs (DSZ) as part WoH's Hunger goal.

As part of Education goal, 50 students will receive assistance with their Back-to-school uniforms and supplies and 40 students will receive assistance with their yearly school fee.

For WoH's Awareness goal, public schools will have the chance to participate in a school project competition where they will need to provide a sustain-

able project plan with one of the SDGs as their primary goal. The winning school will receive AWG 20,000.00 to execute their plan.

As part of the Environment/Sustainable Airport Community goal, WoH will involve the airport community partners in a beach cleanup and SDG awareness walk/run of which all proceeds will go towards the projects of 2 foundations.

As a special Senior recognition project, WoH will partner up with a senior home and together plan a project or activity for 2022.

The Partnership goal will include a media campaign to create a local awareness for the SDGs and WoH

in general.

“Our primary focus remains our direct contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as set by the United Nations. Wings of Hope has positively contributed to the Aruban Community through its various projects which is certainly an accomplishment and a reason to be proud of. Through WoH, AAA hopes to positively influence other companies to also take a step towards making a difference and assisting those who need it most whilst working towards a more sustainable approach”, said Director Health, Safety and Sustainability and WoH leader Angeline Flemming. □

New buoys installed

ORANJESTAD – In November 2021, the Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Dangui Oduber, announced the installation of new buoys and replacing older buoys.

The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) financed this project, and Varadero completed it.

This project is an essential element for the safety of our tourism. The buoys provide security to those who

swim in our sea.

They installed the new buoys in Arashi, Malmok, Tres trapi, Palm Beach, and Costa Linda and repaired or replaced old buoys if possible.

The Government's policy is to focus on quality tourism that spends lots of money in the economy of Aruba. That is why it focuses on “High-Value Low Impact Tourism”. These visitors earn over \$150.000.00 annually and respect Aruba's na-

ture and cultural values.

They will also invest in the product Aruba to offer our guests the best experience possible.

Another ongoing project is the Baby Beach Promenade and the reconstruction of the staircase at Rodgers Beach. A recently announced project is the third phase of the Malmok Boardwalk.

Minister Oduber is grateful to the ATA who made the funds available for these



enhancement projects. Aruba's tourism is recovering, and soon we will reach

a 100% recovery. Tourism is the principal driver of our economy. □

Horizon Europe Workshop: an important opportunity for Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Recently, local experts, the business community, and NGOs attended the “Horizon Europe Workshop”. The European Union, the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI), the University of Aruba, and the Department of Economic

Affairs, Commerce and Industry organized this workshop, led by Mr. Humprey Vrolijk.

Horizon Europe is a financial program of the European Union for Research and Innovation to fortify the scientific and techno-

logical basis and promote the level of competitiveness of member states. For the period 2021-2027, this program has a budget of € 95.5 million available.

The Minister of Economic Affairs, Geoffrey Wever, gave a speech indicating the opportunities provided to Aruba with this program to academic institutions, businesses, Government organizations, and Non-Government organizations that can qualify for these funds to finance their research and innovation projects.

The Minister stated that “Research & Innovation” is the key to managing substantiated development. Therefore it is essential to use the research findings when

formulating decisions for management and investments to have a real impact. The system in which we operate changes rapidly, and this is what makes innovation and research essential”. The workshop addressed the variety of innovation and research programs and how Aruba could qualify and apply for these funds.

As the Minister responsible for economic affairs and sustainable development, he firmly believes in Research and Innovation as a tool to help reach more sustainable economic growth. Aruba can not continue on the same track of unsustainable economic development as has been done

for the past 30 years. Our financial funds are limited hence it is essential to explore and use other funds sources.

Horizon Europe is a great opportunity for academics, commerce, and NGOs.

About Horizon Europe

This research and innovation program of the European Union started this year and runs until 2027. It has a budget of 95.5 billion Euros to be used for the many subprograms.

Addressed themes are, and others, climate change, resilience, clean energy, biodiversity. The main objective is to create new economic growth and employment for the future. □



4 ways to tame financial stress and save for retirement

By **ELIZABETH AYOOLA**
of NerdWallet

Maybe you feel like you don't earn enough. Or you don't understand how investing works. Or maybe you can't organize your finances. These are factors that can lead to financial stress and set back your retirement savings.

A lack of assets and money management challenges are contributing factors to high levels of financial anxiety and stress, according to a 2021 report called Financial Anxiety and Stress Among U.S. Households from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center.

"We also find that financial anxiety and stress can have long-term consequences: those who are financially anxious and stressed are less likely to plan for retirement," the report says.

Sometimes when people are worried about something financial, they just ignore it, says Adam Frank, a certified financial planner and registered investment advisor based in Los Angeles. "But the problem is, the longer you wait to start investing or continue investing for retirement, the more you have to do later," Frank says.



Photo of Andrew Jackson on a \$20 bill is shown, Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING FINANCIAL STRESS

If financial stress is affecting your ability to save for retirement, you may have to work longer and you may also risk running out of money in retirement. But getting started as soon as you can could help you reach your retirement goals faster.

If you're anxious about your ability to save for the future, here's how you can manage those feelings and get on track.

1. CREATE A REALISTIC BUDGET

"The first thing will be to get organized — you know, the big, bad B word, it gets a bad rap, it's budgeting," says Lauryn Williams, a Dallas-based CFP and Olympic medalist in both women's track and field sprint

and two-woman bobsled. Budgeting can help you save more, because you'll learn where your money is going, which can free up opportunities to shift your priorities. Williams suggests creating a "bucket budget," which is a set amount you can spend in each financial category. Examples of buckets include household items, recurring bills and entertainment. Retirement can be a bucket, too. "It's not accounting for every single penny, (or) every single transaction, which can be really overwhelming and create more financial stress, especially if you're doing it on your own," she says.

Another budgeting tip Maggie Gomez, a CFP based in Orlando, Florida,

suggests is downsizing, so you have more money to pump into retirement savings. For instance, you could get a less-expensive car or get a roommate to cut housing costs.

"You're not reducing the quality of your life. You're giving yourself a better future, and it's not going to be much longer until you really feel those rewards," she says.

2. TAKE INVENTORY OF YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Financial advisors suggest you take inventory of all your retirement accounts. If you have old IRAs and 401(k) accounts, Frank suggests rolling them over, either into your current 401(k) or an IRA. This way, you have a clear picture of how much you have, which will help inform how much you need to save.

If you can save for retirement but are still falling behind, Frank suggests automating payments.

"If that means putting \$500 a month towards your IRA and treating it like a bill, you're going to max out your IRA," he says.

3. TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

Feeling like you aren't making headway can trigger more financial stress. Gomez says you could track your accounts as you con-

tribute. Seeing the progress you're making could evoke positive feelings and remind you that you're investing in your future, she says. She also advises people to manage their expectations and not expect tremendous growth during the early days of investing.

"When you first start investing, the majority of your account's growth is going to come from your own deposits versus from market returns. So the more money you can put into the account sooner, the more your account will compound," she says.

4. ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT

To help relieve financial stress, Williams suggests being transparent about your situation with a financial advisor or financial therapist, friends or family.

"Simply opening up and saying, 'I don't know how 401(k)s work' can help alleviate financial stress because one of your friends might do the 401(k) all the time," she says.

Getting clear about what you don't know and filling those information gaps could help you gain a better understanding of your financial situation so you can move forward confidently. □

Senators call for gas tax suspension to blunt rising prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Democratic senators on Wednesday called for suspending the federal gas tax for the remainder of the year to help consumers struggling with rising fuel prices.

The legislation from Sens. Mark Kelly of Arizona and Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire could prove popular during an election year in which the average price of gas nationally, according to AAA, exceeds about \$3.45 a gallon and could go higher during peak driving season. Four other Democratic senators quickly signed on as co-sponsors. Still, the bill faces an uphill fight to become law. Kelly said gas prices are putting a strain on families



Fuel is pumped into a vehicle, Thursday, June 14, 2012, in Miami.

Associated Press

that need to fill up the tank to get to work and school. The federal gas tax has remained at 18.4 cents per gallon since 1993. The money goes into a trust fund that helps pay for highway construction projects and

public transit. The bill would require the Treasury Department to transfer general funds into the trust fund to make up for the lost gas tax revenue and keep the trust fund solvent, likely requiring additional borrowing.

"We need to continue to think creatively about how we can find new ways to bring down costs, and this bill would do exactly that, making a tangible difference for workers and families," Hassan said.

The bill also would require the Treasury Department to monitor whether oil and gas companies are passing along the savings to consumers and encourages the department's secretary to take enforcement actions to ensure they do.

Over the years, lawmakers have visited the idea of suspending the gas tax but did not generate enough support to get their bill over the finish line. Legislation introduced last year in the House has support from some Republicans. It seeks to suspend the gas tax until all emergency health orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted or for six months after the bill is enacted into law, whichever is longer. □

CROSSWORD

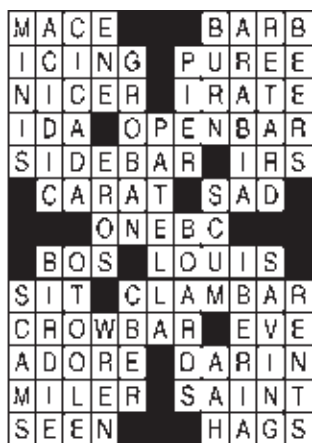
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Moist
- 5 Happy colleague
- 10 Continually
- 11 Stop working
- 12 Fictional captain
- 13 Appears onstage
- 14 Director Martin
- 16 Director Wes
- 20 Greek letters
- 23 Blvd.'s kin
- 24 Sports summary
- 25 Sound of Washington
- 27 Crew need
- 28 Dead ducks
- 29 Director François
- 32 Director Clint
- 36 Threat
- 39 Guessing game for kids
- 40 Diverts
- 41 Rotate
- 42 Fourth-down plays
- 43 Throw

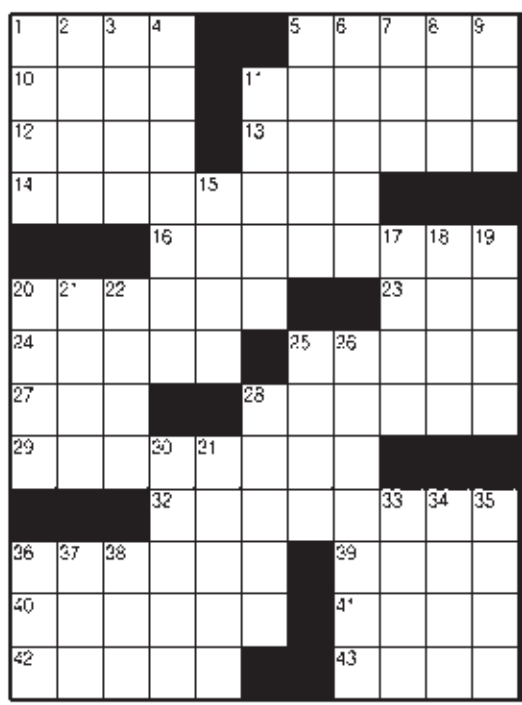
DOWN

- 1 Retreats
- 2 Opposite of "sans"
- 3 Office note
- 4 In fair shares
- 5 Slow-witted
- 6 Mink's cousin
- 7 Cobbler's kin
- 8 Mess up
- 9 "You bet!"
- 11 Oboists' needs
- 15 Small fastener
- 17 Cooking mint
- 18 Finished



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Brooklyn team
- 20 Easy run
- 21 Get news of
- 22 Pale tan
- 25 Sullen look
- 26 Loosen, as a cap
- 28 Neon and helium
- 30 Banquet
- 31 Cube's sextet
- 33 Ibsen's home
- 34 Musical work
- 35 Colors
- 36 Travel aid
- 37 Outback bird
- 38 Sister, of sorts



Classifieds

HTTA

For our clients
Looking to Buy
Marriott Ocean or Surf Club
Platinum weeks all views
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Do you want to sell your
Time - Share or Condo in
Aruba
Contact the experts 37 years
doing
Honest business
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

HTTA

Divi Village resort
Eagle beach
Studio week 4 room #8203
31 weeks remain \$7 K
2 BR Week 4 room #2359/2360
25 weeks remain \$10 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi village resort
Eagle beach
Studio week 5 room #8105
15 weeks remain \$7 K
Studio week 6 room #6202
16 weeks remain \$7 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
Studio week 5 room # 2123
23 weeks remain \$7K
1 Bedroom week 5 room #
2321
30 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
1 BR week 6 room # 2201
18 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Renaissance Ocean Suites
Private Islands
1 BR Week #7 room # 2516
Garden view
Price : \$11,500
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

La Cabana Beach and Casino
Eagle Beach
1 BR week 7 room #336 A
Pool/ Ocean view \$ 10 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Barcelo resort
Palm beach
All inclusive
3 BR week 6 and 7
Top floor
Price : \$ 80 K both weeks
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Condo For sale
Tierra del sol Golf
Community gate
3 BR , 2 1/2 bath
Ocean view with garage
Price : \$450 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

FOR RENT OR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas
Rent / Sale
P/O view wks 2 & 4 -11, 1 bedr
wks 1,6,8,9,11,31,32,52,53
2 bedr
wks can be switched
Call 941 343 1088 USA

215083

**ARUBA
CLEAN**



**IS MORE
DUSHI**

House For Sale

Savaneta near sea rover
3 min walk to the water
4 Bedoom 3 bath on a 400m2
Property land
Price : \$220 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Condo for sale
Le vent
Eagle beach
2 BR, 2 Bath ground floor
\$650 K
3 BR, 2 bath ground floor
\$800 K
3 BR, 3 bath ground floor
\$1 Million
3 BR , 3 1/2 bath 5 th floor
\$1,1Million
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

House For sale
Lago height 10min drive
To baby beach
3 BR ,2 bath
Price \$145 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Dutch Village
1 BR Week 8 room #14
5 weeks \$ 4K
Studio week 7 room # 33
10 weeks remain \$ 5 K
Studio week 8 room # 33
22 weeks remain \$6 K
1 BR week 7/8 room #89
7/5 weeks remain \$4 K each
Call:001-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

215086

For Sale by Owner

Caribbean Palm Village Resort
Wk 50-2BR/28th, \$1,900
Wks 51&52-/2BR/28th, \$2,900
Wks 51&52/1BR/2Bth, \$1,900
Wk 52-1BR/2Bth, \$2,500
Wk 11-2BR/2Bth, \$1,900
Wk 12-1 BR/2Bth, \$1,200
Wk 13-2 BR/2Bth, \$1,300
Contact:
sales.aruba@hotmail.com

215061

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);
Week 5/1315 (19k);
Week 8/1113 (18k);
Week 8/1409 (18k);
Week 9/1218 (16k);
Week 10/1207 (16k);
Week 13/1509 (13k);
Week 14/1308 (13k);
Week 15/1217 (10k).
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. Cell: (860)992-3890

214832



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Sales

Linda Reijnders

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Oduber Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas:

Aloe Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like
us on
Facebook



facebook.com/arubatoday/

ARUBA TODAY **BONDIA**

How to reach us!



Downtown

Ally Sheedy savors nuanced TV role in 'Single Drunk Female'

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ally Sheedy's career boasts hit movies including "The Breakfast Club" and "WarGames," an award-winning turn in the indie film "High Art" and a string of TV roles scattered over the years.

While Sheedy often returned to television between big-screen projects, she was unaware of how many innovative shows had joined the ranks of the conventional. Then the 2020 pandemic lockdown arrived.

"I downloaded Hulu and HBO Max and Netflix and all this stuff that I never actually watched. I suddenly got an education on the streaming platforms," she said in an interview.

When the script for Freeform's "Single Drunk Female" came her way, Sheedy said, "it felt like of a piece with the kinds of shows I had been able to watch....I suddenly understood, 'Oh, I see why a show like this could be made.'"

In the dark comedy, Sheedy plays mom Carol to the title character, 20-something, newly recovering alcoholic Samantha (Sofia Black-D'Elia). There's no sugar-coating, with characters whose vulnerabilities are on full display as Samantha is forced to move back in with her mom.

The pair's relationship is "very fluid and messy, which



This image released by Freeform shows Ally Sheedy in a scene from "Single Drunk Female."

Associated Press

is what I love," Sheedy said during a Q&A with TV critics. "I love Sofia. So, going to work every day was an absolute joy."

Black-D'Elia ("The Night Of," "Gossip Girl") described the mother-daughter dynamic as "complicated and funny and weird and nuanced in a way that I think any girl with a mother can understand and relate to, and it's really fun doing it with Ally."

The layered approach immediately attracted Sheedy to the 10-episode series that's in its first season on cable channel Freeform

(10 p.m. EST Thursday) and on Hulu. Creator Simone Finch based it on her experience as a young woman. Carol is "a woman of many contradictions," Sheedy said. "She wasn't written as any kind of quote-unquote mom, or 'disaster of a mom.' There were so many complexities and levels to her, and the dynamic with the daughter....was really interesting and with a lot of places that it could go."

Does Sheedy see parallels between contemporary TV and indie movies such as 1998's "High Art"? In that film, Sheedy played a a

drug-addicted photographer in a relationship with a younger woman, earning an Independent Spirit Award for best female lead.

"Yes, as a matter of fact," she told The Associated Press. "There was a moment, maybe extended moments (into) the late '90s, when indie film was developing and fruitful."

The films included "a lot of roles that were written for women outside of the box," she said, with writer-director Lisa Cholodenko's "High Art" among them. Sheedy sees the same happening

in TV's current wave, benefiting creators and viewers.

"There are so many stories that I wouldn't just say need to be told, but are being asked for from a very broad audience," she said. Sheedy, who lives in New York, is putting her experience to work on screen and in the classroom. She's in her fourth year of teaching a film acting class that she developed for City College of New York's theater and speech department. The most-asked questions she gets are unrelated to Hollywood glamor or gossip.

"How did you figure out what to do on a film set? How did you know how to do this, that or the other thing?" Sheedy recounted. She says they'll learn on the job, as she did, but there's practical as well as artistic guidance she can offer.

Sheedy also appreciates how much has changed since her career began. Virtual classes during COVID required students to rely on smartphone cameras instead of the real deal, which she realized was a boon for developing skills including lighting and editing along with acting.

"They really do have a kind of limitless horizon as far as what they want to do," Sheedy said. "They can write stuff, they can film stuff, they can post it. They can collaborate and create something and put it out there. This is all new." □



This Feb. 1, 1993 file photo shows Pop superstar Michael Jackson performing during the halftime show at the Super Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

A biopic about Michael Jackson is in the works from Oscar-winning "Bohemian

Rhapsody" producer Graham King and "Gladiator" screenwriter John Logan. Lionsgate will handle the worldwide distribution of

Michael Jackson film coming from Bohemian Rhapsody producer

the film, the studio's chair Joe Drake said Monday.

The studio said that the film will give, "an in-depth portrayal of the complicated man who became the King of Pop" and that it will bring to life his "most iconic performances as it gives an informed insight into the entertainer's artistic process and personal life." Also producing are John Branca and John McClain, who are co-executors the Michael Jackson estate.

The Jackson business has been on the upswing of late, including the recently launched Broadway musical "MJ: The Musical," following a series of court victories that brought an end to serious legal crises.

The 2019 HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland" raised child molestation allegations anew.

The once-dead lawsuits brought by the two men featured in it had been revived by changes in the

law. And a decision in the estate's appeal of a \$700 million tax bill was taking years to arrive. Both accusers' lawsuits were dismissed and a ruling in the tax case slashed the bill dramatically.

The two men featured in the documentary are appealing the dismissals of their lawsuits. HBO has defended "Leaving Neverland" as a valid and important piece of documentary journalism. □

With NBA trade deadline looming, Nets, Lakers weigh options

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin Durant still can't play, Kyrie Irving still can only play part of the time and the Brooklyn Nets have tumbled down the standings. With the NBA trade deadline looming, James Harden has dominated headlines. LeBron James and Anthony Davis have battled injuries and the Los Angeles Lakers have been inconsistent all season.

In L.A., it's Russell Westbrook in the news.

Now the expected NBA Finals contenders who instead may be play-in round bound, face a decision before Thursday's deadline: Stand pat with the belief that all they need to save them is the rosters they already have, or make a move?

"I've always felt like, listen, I don't really like to play fantasy basketball. So this is the group that we have going into the deadline, then we'll be ready to take on all challenges that this season has given us," James said. "If there is an opportunity — I've said this every year — if there is an opportunity for you to get better, then you explore those options."

One of those opportunities ends Thursday afternoon. Some teams have already taken advantage, with the Cleveland Cavaliers, Los Angeles Clippers and New Orleans Pelicans making trades that could help them make playoff pushes. Of those teams, only the surprising Cavaliers are in what would normally be a good playoff position at this point in the season. But with coronavirus pauses unsettling some teams earlier in the season and the play-in keeping hopes alive for later, teams that may otherwise have considered themselves out of contention may still believe they're in the running.

That seemed to be the case in New Orleans, where the Pelicans acquired CJ McCollum from Portland on Tuesday to strengthen a team that would have entered the day five games out of the eighth and final



Brooklyn Nets guard James Harden, left, and guard Kyrie Irving watch from the bench during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Western Conference play-off spot in the old format, but instead occupied 10th and was trending upward. The Trail Blazers had already dealt Norman Powell and Robert Covington to the Clippers, who hold that eighth spot but would be dangerous no matter where they are if Paul George and Kawhi Leonard can return from injuries later this season.

Even the Sacramento Kings, who fired coach Luke Walton and were 15 games under .500, were still only a couple games out of a play-in spot when they agreed to a deal with Indiana to have two-time All-Star Domantas Sabonis packing his bags for California.

The teams in seventh through 10th place in each conference qualify for the play-in, giving themselves an opportunity to win their way into the postseason. The Nets were never expected to be there. Yet they have fallen to eighth in the East after falling 126-91 to Boston on Tuesday for their ninth

straight loss.

They are 2-10 since Durant sprained his left knee, an injury that could keep him out until after the All-Star break. With Irving ineligible to play in home games because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 as mandated by New York City, it's placed a heavy burden on Harden. He has missed the last three games with left hamstring tightness and seemed frustrated beforehand.

Harden can become a free agent after the season and there have been reports the Nets, instead of risking losing him for nothing, could trade him to Philadelphia in a package for Ben Simmons, who has sat out all season. But coach Steve Nash said Sunday that the Nets wouldn't trade the All-Star guard.

Nash said Tuesday he didn't expect a different version of the Nets after Thursday. "Honestly, I think we'll be exactly the same," he said. "I think the chances of trades or deals happening before the deadline are so slim, especially for our group.

So my mind and attention is on this group and putting this thing together as guys become healthy again and trying to build it for the stretch run."

The Nets may believe that Durant, Harden and Irving are good enough to lead them to a title no matter where they are seeded, and that may be true. But they have played so few games together in more than a year since Harden was acquired that simply relying on their superstars' availability is a risk. Same with the Lakers, who won a title in 2020. But with James missing 17 games and Davis 21 this season, they are under .500 through 55 games.

Westbrook has been benched at the end of some games, but it's hard for the Lakers to know if their roster makeup is their problem when they've had so few chances to see it. Even if those big names aren't dealt, there could still be reliable players available.

Toronto acquired Goran Dragic when it lost Kyle

Lowry to Miami but the veteran point guard hasn't been playing for the Raptors. Indiana's trade of Caris LeVert to Cleveland followed by the deal with the Kings could prove a willingness by the Pacers to keep dealing.

The Cavs were thrilled to add LeVert, who the Pacers had acquired last January in the multiteam trade that landed Harden in Brooklyn. The Nets haven't turned into the powerhouse that was expected, leaving the East race wide open without a clear-cut favorite.

That could leave plenty of teams thinking like the Cavs, who recognized the time to make a run could be now.

"I'm sure when the season started guys never thought about this or having a championship mentality or mindset," said Rajon Rondo, a two-time NBA champion. "But now it's time to flip the switch and understand we want some respect and that we will have to go get it in the playoffs, but nevertheless we can compete with anyone." □

Jacobellis finally wins Olympic gold medal, 1st for U.S.

By **BERNIE WILSON**

AP Sports Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Lindsey Jacobellis is finally an Olympic gold medalist.

Let that sink in for a moment because Jacobellis has been trying for 16 years. Jacobellis helped make the wild sport of snowboard-cross famous. Who could forget her premature celebration as she approached the finish line in the 2006 Turin Games, an ill-timed board grab that sent her tumbling out of the lead? In a way, she became one of the best-known silver medalists of all time.

Now Jacobellis will be remembered as the first American gold medalist at the Beijing Olympics. She reached the top of the podium hours after Mikaela



United States' Lindsey Jacobellis (5), followed by France's Chloe Trespeuch (8) and Canada's Meryeta O'Dine (3) crosses the finish line to win a gold medal during the women's cross final at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, in Zhangjiakou, China.

Associated Press

Shiffrin had another stunning early exit on the Alpine ski hill.

Jacobellis rode hard to the finish of the snowboard-

cross final on Wednesday, beating Chloe Trespeuch of France and covering her heart with her hands as she slowed.

Jacobellis was 20 when she made the mistake in Turin. Now 36 and in her fifth Olympics, she became the oldest U.S. woman to win a gold.

The 16 years is also the longest gap between medals for any U.S. woman.

She never stopped reaching for a gold medal.

"They can keep talking about it all they want because it really shaped me into the individual that I am," Jacobellis said. "It kept me hungry and really kept me fighting in this sport."

A glum Olympics for the Americans actually began to brighten a few hours earlier when California snowboarders Chloe Kim and Shaun White, the defending gold medalists, had joyful rides through the half-

pipe. Kim earned the top spot in women's qualifying while White, a three-time gold medalist in his fifth and final Olympics, was fourth in the men's qualifying.

Jacobellis' performance lit up the Genting Snow Park. "This feels incredible because the level that all the women are riding at today is so much higher than it was 16 years ago," Jacobellis said.

Jacobellis said she'd advise young riders to not let mistakes define them. "Especially if you've made it to this stage, you're a winner. And look at what you've learned from the experience and take that with you later in life."

SHIFFRIN'S LETDOWN

Mikaela Shiffrin arrived in Beijing heavily favored to add to her collection of two Olympic gold medals but instead is 0 for 2, a shocking development that has left her shaken.

She skidded out just a few seconds into the slalom, a quicker exit than two days earlier when she crashed out of the super-G.

"I've never been in this position before and I don't know how to handle it," said the teary-eyed Shiffrin, who won the slalom at the 2014 Sochi Games and the giant slalom at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games.

The seventh racer on Wednesday, she began losing her balance and teetering out of control just four seconds and four gates in. She swerved too far as she veered to her right and she ended up way wide of the fifth gate.

"I was pushing and maybe it was past my limit."

There was nothing left to do but ski to the side of the course known as the Ice River, click out of her skis and sit on the ground, her head resting in her arms.

"GS and slalom, those were my biggest focuses. So it really feels like a lot of work for nothing," she said.

Shiffrin had planned on entering all five individual Alpine races. Her next opportunity could come Friday in the super-G, but she raised doubts about that. □

Everyday triple points

Totally sanitized table and chips.

ORCHID CASINO

Located in the Riu Antillas (formerly the Westin)

welcomes you to **RESERVE YOUR OWN PRIVATE TABLE** for you and your party.

RESERVE your Private Table

Call 525 7777 ext.209 to make a reservation.